

MANUFACTURING EXTENSION PARTNERSHIP

Success Stories from the Field

Kardoes

Alabama Technology Network

Kardoes Anticipates a \$1.5 Million Dollar Impact

Client Profile:

Kardoes Rubber Company, Inc., is a custom rubber mixing facility located in LaFayette, Alabama. The company was incorporated in November 1988 by Founder and CEO H. Frank Kardoes and employs approximately 100 workers today.

Situation:

Kardoes needed to become ISO certified to continue to do business with existing customers. The company contacted the Alabama Technology Network (ATN), a NIST MEP network affiliate, for assistance.

Solution:

ATN at Auburn University created a partnership to provide direction, technical assistance and facilitation in Kardoes' ISO 9001:2000 Quality Management System implementation. The system devised is solely on an intranet system, all the information is managed, controlled, and communicated via the computer. This means there are no bound books with copies in different offices; they are not concerned with an outdated paper copy of an instruction; and their system is on a computer server with all company computers networked to that server.

Kardoes realized the benefits of a paperless quality system: 1) The quality manager has access to the server and controls all up-dates and/or changes; 2) All other personnel have a 'Read Only' quality manual computer file. Any printed document needed for communication away from the computer is dated and timed to be valid for an eight hour period only; 3) Report logs are used for tracking all commitments, meetings, planning, and assigned resource, responsibility and authority are covered by a flowchart document; 4) Personnel training for job function and safety instructions are executed by work instructions and by a video clip on the server within the system; 5) All purchase orders confirm the Kardoes required specification; 6) All suppliers are qualified by Kardoes, and all incoming materials are assigned a lot number. This lot number is tracked throughout the process and is related to the finished goods lot number assigned by Kardoes. This gives Kardoes complete history interrelationship of raw material to their finished goods; and 7) Measurement devices have assigned serial numbers with a charted schedule for calibration.

Results:

- * Anticipated \$1.5 million dollar impact on business.
- * Reduced costs.
- * Increased sales by 10 percent.
- * Achieved paperless quality system.

Testimonial:

www.mep.nist.gov



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"We would use ATN-Auburn's services again and would recommend their services to others."

Randy Kardoos, Owner